

There is no reason to waste taxpayer money on yet another revision of Amateur licensing. I saw no reason to change it earlier, either. The number of individuals in society who choose to experiment with new communications technology, or provide emergency services has no relation whatsoever to the licensing structure.

Five words a minute, Twenty words a minute, it makes little difference; the goal should be to insure that the prospective Amateur Radio operator shows commitment to obtain his or her license, in the hope that once licensed they will follow the rules and share the resource responsibly. A timed soldering test, requiring the application to properly affix a PL-259 connector to RG/8 Coax would be just as effective.

There are more than enough thriving equipment manufacturers. Skywarn and ARES classes in my community are filled with willing volunteers, both young and old. Let's spend the money on something more valuable to society at large, rather than debating 500khz one way or the other and whether or not a morse code test is modern or not. Surely the FCC has more important issues to deal with. Isn't once every fifteen or twenty years often enough?

Sincerely

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13wpm + test.